

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

16 May 1954

L  
LINCOLN

INFO: Guatemala

Operational  
Communications Channels

1. The attached are sterile notes for Matthew H. ONTRICH.
2. Stirling D. PRINCEP should inform ONTRICH that the "Pepe" who will be the channel in Guatemala is Wilfred O. CLOWER. CLOWER is about thirty-five years of age, married, and has one child. Before his employment with KUBARK he lived in [ ] where he was a reporter for a local newspaper and worked for [ ] During his employment with KUBARK he served in NIPLUME, primarily [ ] BANNISTER and NUTTING evaluate him as conscientious, willing to work, level-headed and capable.
3. The foregoing is to be communicated to ONTRICH so that he may have a better picture of the services that Pepe can render.
4. PRINCEP will note that prompt action is required on the attached sterile notes.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/JTN/eaf  
16 May 1954

Attachment

Distribution

2 - [ ]  
2 - Guatemala  
2 - Washington  
4 - LINCOLN

~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

May 16, 1954

1. Juan Jose is aware of our constant concern about the security, as well as the efficiency, of Pancho's courier system. We have had to rely on it in the past until we were able to set up better communications. Recent experiences with the couriers have again demonstrated their serious limitations. As the pace of events and enemy vigilance mounts, we can be sure of decreasing efficiency of the courier system.

2. To remedy this, we have already been using Group channels to a certain extent for messages from Pancho, Juan Jose and ourselves to Lidia, Anabella and Griselda. We now have a man available in the Fabrica who can devote full time to handling messages for these three individuals. The man speaks fluent Spanish, blends into the atmosphere and is very experienced. We wish from now on to make maximum use of him for fast and secure communications.

3. Juan Jose will note that messages from Anabella that he receives from the Fabrica have been addressed to "Pepe." In actuality, "Pepe" has thus far been only a channel. Some messages have been sent sealed from the Group to Lidia who passed them to Anabella and Anabella, where appropriate, passed them to Griselda. With the man now available full time for this work, we wish him to come forward and introduce himself to Lidia as Pepe, the man behind the messages. Pepe's dealings with Lidia will be twofold: 1) he will pass money and receive requests for money and 2) he will pass the messages for and receive the messages from Anabella and Griselda. We also wish Pepe to meet, at least on one occasion, both Anabella and Griselda; he should meet each one of these two separately and not be in contact with them thereafter except in emergencies but confine his routine contacts to Lidia. The face-to-face meeting of Pepe and Anabella and Pepe and Griselda is deemed necessary to give them full confidence in the Group channel. It stands to reason that Lidia, Anabella and Griselda, having been accustomed to meetings with live couriers, would feel more sure of the new channel if they saw that there were a live body back of it.

4. Under this arrangement all messages from the Group (principally, Don Ricardo) to Lidia, Anabella and Griselda would go direct from us to Pepe to the recipients. Juan Jose would get a copy so that he and Pancho will at all times be fully informed of what Don Ricardo is sending. All messages from Pancho and Juan Jose would go laterally with Sam's mail to the Fabrica for Pepe who would pass them. The Group (again, especially Don Ricardo) would get copies so that it can coordinate where necessary. If, in addition to sending Pancho and Juan Jose's material through Pepe, Juan Jose desires to use couriers in order to make sure that one of the two copies arrive in time that will be adequate as an interim arrangement. It is to be hoped, of course, that as in the case of Cornelia, who soon found that the Group's channels were faster and safer, the courier system can gradually be dispensed with. However, this will obviously not be

possible until the Pepe channel has demonstrated its quality in speed. Don Ricardo will only send such instructions as have already been discussed with Juan Jose and Manuel and is fully cognizant of dangers of superfluous, contradicting, or blind instructions to these men. A cable will be sent Juan Jose and confirmation received from Juan Jose on any traffic to Anabella from Don Ricardo except most crashing emergency.

5. Pepe himself, as stated before, is experienced and able. He will not have any functions of command, but will be to all intents and purposes a highly glorified messenger. However, with Pepe in the picture, there is the opportunity for him to resolve minor discrepancies between what Don Ricardo, Juan Jose and Pancho request be done in the Fabrica and what Lidia, Anabella and Griselda feel can be done. Very often something that would take a great deal of time to resolve if we depend entirely on written messages back and forth, can be settled on the spot by discussion between Pepe and Lidia, or, in an emergency, between Pepe and Anabella or Pepe and Griselda.

6. It is therefore requested that Juan Jose have Pancho send immediately three letters introducing Pepe to Lidia, Anabella and Griselda, respectively. The letters should simply say that Pepe is the trusted representative of Pancho and the Group, and that he is responsible for the smooth flow of messages back and forth and that he can be useful in adjusting minor discrepancies as noted above. Please dispatch these letters soonest and advise the Group in the Fabrica and us when Juan Jose is sending them.

7. Thereafter, please make maximum use of the Pepe channel. The safety and efficiency of their work can be much improved thereby. There have already been a number of unfortunate confusions, which have caused much unnecessary labor and danger, due to the fact that this channel was not properly opened.

8. Sam will tell Juan Jose more about Pepe's qualifications. Pepe's local boss who is well known to Juan Jose, will see to it personally that Pepe not only performs quickly and reliably but also that he at no time attempts to pass judgment on matters that must be left to Pancho, Juan Jose, Don Ricardo, etc.

9. Please implement this procedure right away. It can serve us very well from now until the time that we have continuous and effective contact with the RRO's.